

## **ROY BERRIDGE (1922–2011)**

Roy Berridge was a natural gentleman – a popular, kindly, considerate and courteous presence in Deddington for the last 18 years. He was educated at King's School, Peterborough (where he was head boy) and Leicester College of Art and Technology. His father was a power station maintenance engineer and Roy also gravitated towards a career in engineering. His first jobs were at firms specialising in optics and instrumentation, but his exposure to the technical challenges of running power stations led him to pursue a distinguished career in the UK's then nationalised power generation industry.

Roy met his future wife Marie when he was 18 and she 16, as he sought shelter from the rain in a badminton club where she was playing – a club he was very quick to join! Five years later, in 1945, Roy and Marie were married. They were blessed with a daughter, Diana, in 1950, who became an early focus for Roy's passion for cameras and photography. They shared a love of classical music and attended countless concerts and operas during their 64 happy years of marriage.

Roy's 34 years at the heart of Britain's energy industry started with a job as a Reactor Design Engineer for the British Electricity Authority, but his intellect, dedication and integrity eventually led to such prestigious (and high pressure) positions as Director General of the Design and Construction Division of the Central Electricity Generating Board, and Chairman of the South of Scotland Electricity Board.

He became a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering in 1979 and was awarded the CBE for his services to engineering. But he invariably emphasised the team nature of his work and was generous in recognising the worth of his staff.

After his retirement in 1982, Roy and Marie moved to Deddington where they rapidly became active members of the community and enjoyed many years of happiness and close friendships.

Roy took a particular interest in the replacement of the church bells, following and filming their restoration and the casting of new bells. He also battled with the County Council over plans to reorganise the traffic flow in the village, resulting in a safer and more environmentally friendly system. Always a technophile, Roy stayed well abreast of computer technology too, and for several years was responsible for designing the advertisement pages of *DN*. He also set up a beautifully equipped workshop where he repaired clocks of all kinds for his growing circle of local friends who were very generous with their support when Roy's health began to deteriorate in later years.

Roy died peacefully at the Horton Hospital on 3 January 2011. His family and many friends mourn his passing, celebrate his gifts and count themselves fortunate to have shared his life and achievements.

*Francis Tombs and Crispin Gair*